

Murray State University

1. Are more Kentuckians ready for postsecondary education?

- Improve the quality of P-12 education in this region by producing a sure supply of strong, qualified teachers; and through the Teacher Quality Institute, provide for the retraining and updating of skills for in-service teachers.
- Strengthen P-12 instruction in targeted critical skills areas such as math, science; and foreign languages, by providing alternative certificate programs and other incentives to increase the supply of qualified teachers for regional schools.
- Help P-12 schools achieve desired faculty and staff diversity goals by establishing specific scholarships, certificate programs, and enhanced advising services for aspiring teachers in minority and non-traditional population groups.
- Expand Murray State's highly successful Roads Scholars program into middle schools in the university's nine target enrollment counties, recognizing that national studies identify middle school as the critical point at which students and their parents must raise their expectations and envision college as a personal goal.
- Enhance the university's outreach program to provide assistance to parents and students regarding availability of and application for financial aid to attend Murray State University.
- Participate fully in community P-16 councils to provide planning forums and collaborative mechanisms for increasing the number of residents going to college and to improve graduation rates of high schools and colleges in the region.

2. Are more students enrolling?

- Offer academic counseling and support services in Paducah, Madisonville, Hopkinsville, and Henderson.
- Double extended campus enrollments by 2006, adding access to four-year programs in general business, special education, early childhood education, elementary education, criminal justice (Hopkinsville), and a masters in business administration (Henderson).
- Provide additional support for and expand availability of the bachelor's of independent studies (BIS) on the Kentucky Virtual University and increase MuSU program options available on the Kentucky Virtual University to include education, business, and occupational safety and health.
- Increase scholarship dollars and student work study opportunities available to students in the MuSU service region.

3. Are more students advancing through the system?

- Enhance the Residential College Program which increases the sense of student unity, reinforces the institution's emphasis on personal learning, and integrates faculty involvement in college life outside the classroom.

- Extend service learning opportunities to all students, increase opportunities for student internships, and expand student research opportunities by establishing the Undergraduate Center for Research and Scholarly Activities.
- Continue to develop and strengthen specific articulation agreements with KCTCS institutions in the region, making full use of the MuSU capstone option to facilitate KCTCS students' entry into a four-year degree program.
- Provide greater support for underprepared, first-time college students by expanding course offerings, advising, and support services for students who are preparing for successful enrollment in baccalaureate degree programs,
- Establish an independent undergraduate academic advising center for students with undeclared majors and uncertain academic plans to assist them in career and educational planning.
- Enhance the MuSU First Year Experience Program to include resources for additional monitoring, follow-up, and advising for first-year students.

4. Are we preparing Kentuckians for life and work?

- Enhance student opportunities to become information and technology literate, to develop research skills relevant to a wide range of disciplines and areas of study, and to pursue life-long learning.
- Provide students with opportunities for learning about other cultures and languages consistent with the changing demographics of Kentucky and the United States, and to experience working and studying in an environment rich with cultural diversity.

5. Are Kentucky's communities and economy benefiting?

- Establish a Center for Regional Entrepreneurship Development to stimulate economic development through training, assistance, and education.
- Expand non-credit community education course offerings, and increase offerings suitable for adults in the region.
- Prepare students for careers in the new economy by emphasizing academic programs in relevant disciplines.
- Provide additional support for faculty to seek research dollars and for service involvement of Murray State faculty in activities that will benefit businesses, agriculture, and technology-based industries in west Kentucky.